

# REPORT

## ON

# NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 4th August 1877.

## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Edition.	Number of copies issued.
BENGALI.				
1	"Bhārat Shramjībī" ... ..	Barāhanagar ...	Monthly ...	4,000
2	"Grāmbārtā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Comercolly ...	Do. ...	200
3	"Banga Hitaishī" ... ..	Bhowanipore ...	Weekly ...	.....
4	"Bishwa Dūt" ... ..	Tāligunj, Calcutta ..	Do. ...	.....
5	"Bishwa Suhrid" ... ..	Mymensingh ...	Do. ...	450
6	"Bhārat Mihir" ... ..	Do. ...	Do. ...	658
7	"Bhārat Sangskārak" ... ..	Calcutta ...	Do. ...	.....
8	"Bengal Advertiser" ... ..	Do. ...	Do. ...	.....
9	"Dacca Prakāsh" ... ..	Dacca ...	Do. ...	400
10	"Education Gazette" ... ..	Hooghly ...	Do. ...	1,168
11	"Moorshedabad Pratinidhi" ... ..	Berhampore ...	Do. ...	.....
12	"Pratikār" ... ..	Do. ...	Do. ...	235
13	"Grāmbārtā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Comercolly ...	Do. ...	200
14	"Sambād Bhāskar" ... ..	Calcutta ...	Do. ...	.....
15	"Sulabha Samāchār" ... ..	Do. ...	Do. ...	3,000
16	"Sādhāranī" ... ..	Chinsurah ...	Do. ...	516
17	"Hindu Hitaishinī" ... ..	Dacca ...	Do. ...	300
18	"Samāj Darpan" ... ..	Calcutta ...	Do. ...	460
19	"Soma Prakāsh" ... ..	Bhowanipore ...	Do. ...	700
20	"Sahachar" ... ..	Calcutta ...	Do. ...	.....
21	"Hindu Ranjikā" ... ..	Bauleah, Rajshahye	Do. ...	.....
22	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh" ... ..	Kākiniā, Rungpore	Do. ...	250
23	"Burdwan Prachārikā" ... ..	Burdwan ...	Do. ...	165

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Edition.	Number of copies issued.
	BENGALI—(continued).			
24	"Sambád Prabhákar" ... ..	Calcutta ...	Daily ...	550
25	"Sambád Purnachandrodaya" ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	.....
26	"Samáchar Chandriká" ... ..	Do. ...	Do. ...	625
27	"Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká" ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	.....
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI.			
28	"Amrita Bazar Patriká" ... ..	Do. ...	Weekly ...	2,217
29	"Howrah Hitakarí" ... ..	Bethar, Howrah ...	Do. ...	300
30	"Moorshedabad Patriká" ... ..	Berhampore ...	Do. ...	.....
31	"Burrisal Bártábaha" ... ..	Burrisal ...	Do. ...	300
	ENGLISH AND URDU.			
32	"Urdu Guide" ... ..	Calcutta ...	Do. ...	400
	URDU.			
33	"Akhabár-ul-Akhiár" ... ..	Mozufferpore ...	Bi-monthly	.....
	HINDI.			
34	"Behár Bandhu" ... ..	Bankipore, Patna...	Weekly ...	509
	PERSIAN.			
35	"Jám-Jahán-numá" ... ..	Calcutta ...	Do. ...	250



## INDIAN AND FOREIGN POLITICS.

SAHACHAR,  
July 23rd, 1877.

WE take the following from an article in the *Sahachar*, of the 23rd July, headed the "Triumph of Manchester." By directing the abolition of the cotton duties, at the instance of the merchants of Manchester, Parliament has clearly shewn that the English nation can never rise above selfish considerations when their interests are at stake. At other times, indeed, we hear much bombast as of justice to India; and how many worthy people are found who talk in almost every breath of the need of pursuing a generous and liberal policy towards her. But they are silent when the interests of England and India clash with each other, and this poor country is made a victim. The Secretary of State is resolved on the abolition of these duties; and Parliament also has agreed to the measure, as soon as the state of the finances enables Government to carry it out. It is therefore evident that the observations on this subject, made by Sir John Strachey, in the course of his budget speech, were not his own independent views, although they were declared to be such by Lord Lytton. Knowing, as we do, the settled policy of the Secretary of State in this matter, they were doubtless put forth as a feeler by Sir John Strachey; and it was only when, the public and some members of the Legislative Council having expressed their equal surprise and displeasure, the Viceroy felt that a mistake had been made in raising the question at that time, that he drew a distinction between the Indian Government and its finance minister, though fully aware of the fate of the cotton duties. Rulers and statesmen often say many things, the truth of which is never afterwards tested with carefulness. The people, however, understand their significance from the first. We exceedingly regret that, with a view to conciliate the merchants of Manchester, both the Ministry in England, and the Government of India have leagued themselves against this country. The question is, are they right in doing so? Will the interests of Manchester—to promote which they are about to ruin a rising native industry—in the long run thrive by this means?

The merchants and the Press of this country have repeatedly shown that it is unjust in Government to act in this way. It is also probable that even the Secretary of State, were he asked to give his own opinion of the case, would not hesitate to pronounce it an unjust proceeding, dictated by the influence of Manchester. Since India will suffer rather than gain by the abolition of these duties, certainly it does not behove the Secretary of State or the Government of India to agree to the measure. Government must, in that case, seek to raise by some other means the revenue now derived from the import duty on British piece-goods. In order to meet the demand of the imperial exchequer this year the land tax has been increased in Bengal; possibly Bombay's turn will come next, and after that Madras will be required to make her contribution. The financial policy of this country is a wicked device. The finance minister is not answerable to the country; he simply fixes the amount of revenue which shall be placed at the disposal of each province, and the proportions in which it shall be made up respectively from the proceeds of local taxation and from grants from the imperial exchequer. Thus, in the name of local improvements, new imposts will be levied which will replace the cotton duties. Certainly the inauguration of such a policy does not require in its author the possession of any considerable degree of ability or skill. The people clearly see through this dishonest statesmanship. The result will, of



course, be that our cloth mills will be injured, while natives of India will be saddled with increased taxation. Nothing daunted, however, by this, the Viceroy and the finance minister will not hesitate to explain to the members of the Legislative Council that one maund added to one maund makes only twenty-five seers! Our complaints will be answered with the remark, that we are yet incapable of comprehending the good motives of the rulers; and that the benefits to accrue from the irrigation canals, which will go to enrich many a European engineer, can only be appreciated by us after a long time. The advocates of Government in the Anglo-Indian Press will, of course, frown upon us as secret rebels, and ask us—"Have you forgotten what it was under the Moghul Empire?" And the Secretary of State, too, will not fail to remark that when once Parliament has solved a question, no one else is competent to re-open it. We shall be put off with such excuses, though fully knowing whence all this originates. It is of course the Marquis of Salisbury who is responsible for it; but the blame cannot be brought home to him, owing to his remaining behind the scenes. In truth, this policy is really dishonest. The people had hitherto an impression that, whatever might be done by the Government of this country, there could be no injustice in Parliament. The veil has, however, now fallen from their eyes.

SAHACHAR,  
July 23rd, 1877.

We are convinced that it is Manchester which will ultimately have to suffer. Government no doubt will seek to ruin the native industry. We can even believe that a tax might not improbably be imposed on Indian mills, if, in spite of the abolition of the cotton duties, they continue to produce cloth at a cheap price. But there is one fact which should be noticed in this connection. English goods are being gradually driven out of the markets of Europe and America. The latter country formerly used to depend on England for its cloth and many other articles. For more than two years past American cloth and American watches and clocks have been sold in Liverpool and London. What is there to shew that gradually America will not monopolize the Indian trade in piece-goods? The British Government may terrify the Indians with stern looks as though they were females of the zenana, but these will not affect Americans; nor has our Government the courage to try it. And what will then be the result, except that our industry will have been destroyed, while Manchester will be no gainer? But at this stage, things will return to their first and normal state, and native industry will make its appearance in India. But how mistaken are men! In spite of the clear testimony of history, that a dishonest policy cannot but be attended in the long run with failure, the rulers persist in following it in hopes of success. We write this with sorrow, for we cannot be silent when an act of grievous injustice is being perpetrated towards our country. In this connection we are tempted to raise one question. Since Parliament is only a tribunal of appeal, is it competent directly to interfere in the financial administration of the Indian Empire? The Government of India, which, in the absence of any other representative institution, must be held to represent the interests of the people, is vested with this power. On the other hand, there is none to represent India in Parliament; and it is not therefore competent to that body to interfere in anything bearing upon the financial policy of this country. We exhort the people to consider this, and instead of making any memorials (for who shall give us justice, since Government has denied it?) appeal to the public opinion of Europe and America against the wrong that has been done to India.



SAHACHAR,  
July 23rd, 1877.

2. The same paper thus writes, in reference to the call made on the public by the Mahomedans of Calcutta for subscriptions in aid of Turkey. Moulvie Abdul

The Indian public should subscribe in aid of Turkey.

Luteef has truly observed, that it is gratifying to find, that the members of the Native Press of India have been unanimous in wishing well to Turkey. Sultan Abdul Hamed has, of his own free will, inaugurated improvements in the empire which have not yet been introduced into India, and which in Russia it will take a century to set on foot. In matters of religion, he is perfectly liberal; and is popular with his subjects. In these circumstances the Russian invasion of Turkey, solely dictated by motives of aggrandizement, has exceedingly offended every native of India. We exhort our fellow-countrymen to help the Turks, so far as their means will permit. The war is waged in the name of religion. The Russians have begun to commit such horrible atrocities on the Mahomedan population of Bulgaria, as to lead the Sultan's Government to appeal to the enlightened public opinion of Europe. All classes of natives should promptly respond to the call made on their charitable feelings. The Hindus should remember that most of the religious shrines, now existing in India, were endowed by wealthy Mahomedans. The Jews in Turkey are openly offering up prayers in their synagogues for the success of the Turkish arms. We hope that subscriptions will be forthcoming from every quarter. India is interested in the existence of Turkey.

3. The following is the substance of an editorial in the *Bishwa Dút*, of the 25th July, headed the "Burden of India":—It is to be regretted that few only,

The Engineering College at Cooper's Hill, an unnecessary charge on the Indian revenues.

among those selected to fill the office of Viceroy, are really qualified for it. The most part have been ignorant of the condition of the people they were sent out to govern; it is a matter of doubt whether some even heard the name of India before their elevation to the viceroyalty. The difficulty experienced by them, in the discharge of their duties, may therefore be easily conceived. Unable to do anything independently, they place themselves under the guidance of the members of their Council, who exercise a considerable amount of influence over them. Of such viceroys, Lord Mayo was the worst. Under no other viceroy was there such an extravagant expenditure of public revenues; although there were no wars or famines to warrant it. Acting upon the advice of Sir J. Strachey, he opened a wide door to the corruptions of the Public Works Department; and, as a result of his counsels, an engineering college was established at Cooper's Hill. For six years past this institution has been a burden on the Indian revenues, in spite of the fact that it was entirely needless,—for there are two efficient engineering colleges in India,—and that it was a standing injustice towards the natives brought up in these colleges. It is therefore exceedingly gratifying to find that Mr. Eden has sent up a remonstrance to the Government of India against the continuance of this institution.

BISHWA DUT,  
July 25th, 1877.

4. The *Amrita Bazar Patriká*, of the 26th July, has an article headed

Natives should come to the help of Turkey.

"Should we help Turkey?":—After referring to the different views put forth by the different members of the Indian Press as to the duty or otherwise of helping the Turks, the Editor points out that those that urge the public to do so have in view two important results which they believe will accrue to India. These are (1) a

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
July 26th, 1877.



unity between the Hindus and Mahomedans of India, which is essential to her progress; and (2) an interchange of friendship between Turkey and India. The Editor dismisses the contention that, to relieve the famine-stricken in India is a more imperative duty than raising subscriptions in aid of Turkey, with the remark that, it is not an act of unwisdom to labour for some ultimate good, even though this should compel us to put up with a little temporary inconvenience or distress. Relieving the distress in the famine tracts, moreover, is not properly the work of the people: it is a duty which should be discharged by Government. Nor are the people competent to undertake such a gigantic task, even were it forced on them by considerations of duty. Government is responsible for the way in which it deals with famines. The public works cess is levied for this purpose; and we would not be unwilling to open our purse-strings to supplement the means at its disposal, should Government ask us to do so. But so long as we are not allowed to take any active part in the matter, we can but remain content with only providing the funds; and those that are anxious to enlist the sympathy of the public on behalf of Turkey do not dissuade it from paying the taxes to Government.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
July 26th, 1877.

5. The same paper contains a long article headed "What has any influence upon the English nation?" It writes, "Calamities which have recently befallen India. what shall we do now, when Government has destroyed the independence of the High Courts, struck a blow at the roots of the permanent settlement, and ruined the native industries? So many calamities have befallen us since January last, that we cannot, even with much effort, comfort ourselves or see any grounds of hope. Hardly had the wails of the sufferers in Dukhin Shabazpore from the cyclone and storm-wave died away, than millions of men in the southern and western parts of India found themselves on the point of starvation, and were threatened with a scarcity of water. Cries of distress also came from Eastern Bengal. Cholera reduced the once populous and wealthy villages and cities of this province into burial places. The conduct of Government aggravated the distress caused by these successive visitations of an adverse Providence. Then came, in rapid succession, the Presidency Magistrates' Act, the destruction of the permanent settlement of land, the ruin of the native industries, and the loss of the independence of the High Courts. Divine visitations are not, indeed, amenable to human control; but Government might have, if it had been willing to do so, considerably alleviated the distress. We can somehow console ourselves for these manifestations of divine wrath; but what shall we think of the misery brought about by the acts of Government? What is more to be deplored is, that Lord Lytton, by his Fuller Minute, written with such good motives, has become the cause of a large amount of injustice. Many similar cases have occurred of late with the same results. The zemindars, who prayed to see Mr. Eden raised to the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal, have been ruined by him. The chief cause of our sorrow, however, is, that all these calamities have come over the country ever since the Queen assumed the title of "Empress of India." But what can influence the Government, which is mainly responsible for these misfortunes? Neither flattery nor an appeal to reason and justice has any effect upon them. It is said that they value their own interests above all other things. But how could that be true, seeing that, by a rigorous administration of the country, and suppressing all independent action of the people, they are injuring these very interests?"



## EDUCATION.

SAHACHAR,  
July 23rd, 1877.

The Education Department  
needs reform. Mr. Eden's interfer-  
ence opportune.

6. The *Sahachar*, of the 23rd July, writes the following in an article headed the "Introduction of grades into the Education Department":—The subject has been revived after the lapse of about nine years. It was first taken into consideration by Government, during the administration of Sir William Grey, when Mr. Eden was Chief Secretary. It is therefore not a matter of wonder that now, when he has succeeded to the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal, it should occupy some degree of his attention. Since the days of Lord Dalhousie, there has been a gradual improvement noticeable in the position and prospects of officers of almost all branches of the public service; even among the clerks in Government offices the system of grades is in vogue. But, in spite of the admitted efficiency and usefulness of the Education Department, nothing has been hitherto done for its native officers. There was a time when the head-master of a zillah school and a moonsif received equal salaries. But while the emoluments of the latter now range from Rs. 250 to Rs. 1,000, the former must be content with his Rs. 150 as the highest reward he can aspire to. The native officers of the Education Department are singularly unfortunate beings; their promotion is slow and restricted. They are generally seen to be without energy, suffering from ill-health, and old beyond their time. Do the authorities ever inquire into the cause of this? It arises simply from a want of encouragement added to excessive work. It is only when other means of employment are not available, that one seeks to enter the education service, which is given up on the earliest opportunity. Instances are not wanting of persons who had, by their long and useful career, become ornaments to the Education Department, yet who at length were obliged to cease their connection with it. Who needs be told, that the educated natives of Calcutta shun the service? But not only is this state of things injurious to the department itself, public interests also suffer. The efficiency of the service is being gradually impaired.

BHARAT  
SANGSKARAK,  
July 23rd, 1877.

7. Writing on the same subject, the *Bhārat Sangskārak*, of the 23rd July, observes as follows:—Who can deny that the enlightenment and progress of a nation is only tested by the intensity of its devotion to the cause of education? But our enlightened Government, unfortunately, is not sufficiently mindful of the state of education in this country. No other department of the public service is so little cared for, or is in so miserable a condition. Here one must work hard on a poor pay, and expect as rewards head-aches, consumption, and the like. While another person of like attainments earns, as a pleader or engineer, no less than Rs. 1,000 a month; and the income of a moonsif or a doctor is about the same; the schoolmaster must sell his life for a sum not exceeding Rs. 150. This is what makes the condition of the Education Department so deplorable. It is therefore really gratifying to notice that the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor has been directed to the subject. In this connection, the Editor urges upon Government the duty of ameliorating the position of the hard-worked teachers of the aided schools; men on whose talents really depends the success or the failure of the scheme of popular education in this country.

BHARAT  
SANGSKARAK.

8. The same paper agrees with the views expressed by Dr. Rājendra Lāl Mitra, in his letter to the Registrar of the Calcutta University, regarding the re-introduction of text-books in English at the entrance

Text-books should be prescribed  
in English for the entrance ex-  
amination of the University.



examination. The present system affords ample scope for the prevalence of *cram*, which it was designed to prevent, as certain books, such as the "Hints" by Messrs. Rowe and Webb, are entirely committed to memory by the boys.

URDU GUIDE,  
July 28th, 1877.

9. The *Urdu Guide* observes that all the talk about "female education," which had been so long shelved, seems, according to reports from Dacca, to have revived

Female education.

in that town. The education of females among Hindus is not difficult, inasmuch as it is already in vogue among them, and is gradually increasing. The difficulty lies among the Muhammadans of India, because they consider that females, if educated, will become unchaste.

The Director of Public Instruction should therefore first seek to disabuse the Moslem mind of such ideas; he should next take care that in educating Muhammadan women, the *Quarân Hadís* (or Sacred Traditions) and the *Tabsir* (Commentary) form part of their studies; and this may prevent their drifting into evil habits.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
July 29th, 1877.

10. In an article headed the "Native officers of the Education Department," the *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 29th July, makes the same observations as those noticed in paragraphs 6 and 7.

Reform in the Education Department.

SADHARANI,  
July 29th, 1877.

11. The *Sádháraní*, of the 29th July, writes the following, in an editorial on the Education Department. Of all branches of the public service, the Education Department is justly an object of particular interest. The introduction of high education has considerably benefited the people and paved the way for their future greatness. With the military service they have no sympathy, for they are excluded from it; and it is moreover, in spite of the manifold advantages enjoyed under the British rule, the main cause and proof of their subjection. The Public Works Department is but another name for Public Waste Department. The Financial Department shows such proofs of the unsound statesmanship of Government, and is withal the origin of so much oppression in connection with revenue work, that it is not at all popular. The Judicial branch was for a long time an object of regard to the people. But that feeling has passed away since Government sought to wed politics to justice, and encumbered it by a multiplicity of laws. The Education Department, though an object of solicitude with the people, still labours under many disadvantages. These are an unsatisfactory system of examinations, the occasional partiality shown by the examiners, the selection of text-books with a view to favour *protégés*, the want of encouragement in the case of teachers, and the difficulty experienced by the Inspectors in working under a number of superiors. These and other causes have combined to make the condition of the schools and *páthshálás* in the mofussil extremely unsatisfactory. Government does not regard the education of the people as a duty, but rather as a gratuitous task. Prizes are no longer given in schools. The Text-books' Committee appointed in Simla have done next to nothing. Under these circumstances, a resolution of the Lieutenant-Governor, revising the department, has exceedingly gratified us. But a revision of the establishment alone is not likely to produce any very remarkable results, so long as the questions of text-books and the system of examinations are not taken up. It is hoped that Mr. Eden will now do this.

Reform in the Education Department.

SOMA PRAKASH,  
July 30th, 1877.

12. While approving of the action taken by Mr. Eden with reference to the Education Department, in so far as it shows the interest he takes in the welfare of the people, the *Soma Prakásh*, of the 30th July, regrets that His Honor should have taken a step in the

Mr. Eden's efforts to revise the Education Department not likely to succeed. He should revert to the system laid down in the Education despatch of 1854.



wrong direction. He is seeking to bolster up the falling fabric erected by Sir George Campbell; and we are afraid that success will not crown his efforts. It was a mistake on the part of Sir George Campbell to interfere in the system inaugurated in accordance with the celebrated education despatch of Sir Charles Wood, and which was superintended by the Director and his subordinates. It would be well if, instead of this, Mr. Eden would revive the old system in all its integrity, with the additional inspectorships referred to in the resolution, and relieve the Magistrates and Commissioners of all connection with educational matters. As it is, however, he has made the confusion worse confounded.

#### THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

13. The *Hindu Ranjikā*, of the 25th July, remarks that it is high time that the distinction between the covenanted and uncovenanted officers should cease to exist. It perpetuates an injustice to the latter, among whom there are many men of ability and experience. Or, if the distinction must be kept up, there is no longer any need of holding competitive examinations in England for the purpose of obtaining qualified men for the Indian Civil Service. Let it be ruled that henceforth all appointments under the Government of this country, which are now ordinarily conferred on the members of the Civil Service, should be given away only to such as would, by their abilities and their knowledge of the people, show their fitness for them. And this should be done irrespective of the creed or the nationality of the candidate.

HINDU RANJIKĀ,  
July 25th, 1877.

14. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 26th July, remarks that civilian officers are now more largely appointed to the charge of sub-divisions than formerly. This of itself would not be objectionable, were it not for the circumstance that, by this means, the sphere of executive work is narrowed to the Native Deputy Magistrates. The charge of a sub-division is the best means of giving to the native officers a training in executive work.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
July 26th, 1877.

15. The *Soma Prakāsh*, of the 30th July, has an article headed "Murders committed by Europeans."—The Editor complains that in all cases of murder of a native by a European, the plea of a diseased spleen is almost invariably advanced in favour of the accused; thus saving him from merited punishment. It is not strange that such should be the case, considering the relation in which the Europeans and natives are placed in this country. Such things are common when one party is the conqueror and the other the conquered. We have not raised this question merely for the purpose of asking Government to put an end to the evil, or to point out the injurious consequences that result from it, such, for instance, as the growing dissatisfaction of the people towards the British nation and the British rule, but only to inquire which of the two is the larger number—the number of murders of natives committed by Europeans, or the number of sentences of capital punishment passed by the courts?

SOMA PRAKASH,  
July 30th, 1877.

#### LOCAL GRIEVANCES.

16. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 26th July, directs the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor to the necessity of constructing a railway line to Dacca and Mymensingh. The matter is of great importance to the natives of Eastern Bengal, as the progress of the province entirely depends on it.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
July 26th, 1877.



BHARAT MIHIR,  
July 26th, 1877.

17. The same paper writes as follows:—There will probably be no diminution in the number of scandals in Chittagong. Its miseries will not terminate so long as Mr. Lewis continues its Commissioner. He has but very little ability, energy, or sense of justice. The matter has been made worse by vesting him with the powers of a District and Sessions Judge. Government cannot too soon transfer him elsewhere. The oppressions committed by the planters on the coolies, especially on their females, should also receive the attention of the authorities.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
July 26th, 1877.

18. A correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patriká*, of the 26th July, complains of the high-handed proceedings of Baboo Ramesh Chandra Mookerjee, the officer in charge of the Ranaghat sub-division. Moreover, he is not punctual in his attendance in the court. This occasions extreme inconvenience to the suitors.

High-handed proceedings of Baboo Ramesh Chandra Mookerjee, the sub-divisional officer of Ranaghat.

PRATIKAR,  
July 27th, 1877.

19. The *Pratikár*, of the 27th July, refers to the report, which has appeared in the *Statesman* and some other papers, of a case in which the District Superintendent of Police, Maldah, is the defendant, and asks Government to inquire.

A case against the District Superintendent of Police, Maldah.

#### FAMINE.

SAMAJ DARPAN,  
July 27th, 1877.

20. Adverting to the appearance of famine in Chittagong, and the high prices of rice generally in all the districts of Bengal, the *Samáj Darpan*, of the 27th July, regrets to notice that Government has not yet taken any effectual measures to relieve the distress of the people. Now, that the country is in the midst of a calamity of such gigantic proportions, it does not behove the Viceroy to spend his time on the summits of the Simla hills. He should be forthwith on the scene of distress.

The Viceroy should come down from Simla to superintend relief operations.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

SAHACHAR,  
July 23rd, 1877.

21. Adverting to a proposition, made last year by Sir Madhava Rao of Baroda, and circulated for the opinion of the Local Governments and Administrations by the Government of India, regarding the advisability of discontinuing capital punishment in the case of Hindu widows, who may be guilty of destroying their children born of illicit connection, the *Sahachar*, of the 23rd July, recognises the gravity of the question raised, and hopes it will be fully discussed by the Press. The Editor agrees with the views of Sir Madhava Rao on the subject.

Capital punishment in the case of Hindu widows destroying their natural children.

BHARAT  
SANGSKARAK,  
July 23rd, 1877.

22. Adverting to the comparatively large number of deaths from opium, which have recently taken place in the native community, the *Bhárat Sangskárák*, of the 23rd July, asks Government to be increasingly careful in granting licenses for the vend of this drug. The evil complained of could only have resulted from the comparative ease with which females, who have put an end to their existence, are enabled to procure the drug at the bazar. It is suggested that the police sub-inspector of every thana should be empowered to grant passes at the commencement of the year to all regular opium eaters under his jurisdiction; and that the vendors should be prohibited from selling the drug to any except those who might produce a pass.

How to prevent the recurrence of cases of poisoning by opium.



23. The *Hindu Hitaishini*, of the 28th July, condemns the practice of flogging, which obtains in the jails of this country. This is a barbarous and cruel practice, unworthy of the humane and civilized British Government.

HINDU HITAIISHINI,  
July 28th, 1877.

24. The *Behár Bandhu* announces the arrival of a *Bábáji* (a sort of religious leader) at Rájmahál, who took up his quarters opposite the Magistrate's cutchery. He made a garden for himself, and employed Santális, and seemed never to be

BEHAR BANDHU,  
August 1st, 1877.

A Babaji at Rajmehal.  
in want of money. This was accounted for by common people, on the ground of his acquaintance with the science of Alchymy, though more intelligent men attributed to him designs of a suspicious nature ; and so it has turned out. The Magistrate has arrested and sent both him and his Santáli companions to Bhagulpore, as it appeared that he was inciting the Santáls to revolt, proclaiming by beat of drum on the hills that they would rule and the English be driven out. Had the Magistrate not taken the above precautionary measures in time, some great calamity would have ensued. Many police constables have been sent from Bhagulpore to Rájmahál.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
*The 4th August 1877.*

JOHN ROBINSON,  
*Government Bengali Translator.*

Bengal Secretariat Press.



